



Get all of the details about the May 2003 Washington Job Vacancy Survey!

A web-based report and downloadable tables are available online at

www.workforceexplorer.com

Choose from the “**Economy**” page or the “**Data Download**” page – either one will lead you to a wellspring of information about job vacancies in Washington.

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MAY 2003 WASHINGTON JOB VACANCY SURVEY

HIGHLIGHTS



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Employment Security Department
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Published September 2003



About the Washington Job Vacancy Survey

By measuring the number of vacant positions for which employers are hiring, the *Washington Job Vacancy Survey* provides valuable insights into employment conditions in our state. Survey results show not just the number of vacant positions, but also a number of job characteristics to reveal the reality of employers' immediate workforce needs.

The survey was distributed to a random sample of **21,349 employers** representative of size class (number of employees), region (workforce development areas), and industry in May 2003. **The response rate was 72 percent.**

For each vacant position, the survey gathers basic information about the following requirements and characteristics:

- Wage offered
- Full-time/part-time status
- Permanent/temporary status
- Number of weeks vacant
- Newly created positions and replacement openings
- Education requirements
- Licensing/certification requirements
- Experience requirements

Highlights From the May 2003 Washington Job Vacancy Survey

Where Are The Jobs?

- Like employment, the bulk of job vacancies (40 percent) are in **Seattle King County**.
- **North Central** Washington (Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, and Adams counties) has an 11 percent share of vacancies, largely due to seasonal hiring in agriculture.

Workforce Development Area	Estimated Job Vacancies	Area's Share of Total Vacancies	Area's Share of Total Employment
Seattle-King	22,182	40%	42%
North Central	6,187	11%	4%
Snohomish	3,896	7%	8%
Spokane	3,662	7%	7%
Tacoma-Pierce	3,496	6%	9%
Pacific Mountain	3,048	6%	6%
Northwest	2,770	5%	5%
Tri-County	2,653	5%	4%
Southwest	2,193	4%	6%
Olympic	2,077	4%	4%
Benton-Franklin	1,515	3%	3%
Eastern	1,032	2%	2%
GRAND TOTAL	54,939	100%	100%

What are the top jobs in demand?

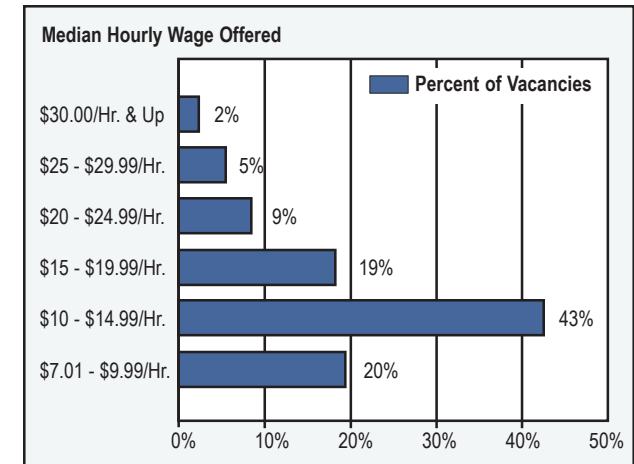
- The occupation with the most vacant positions is graders and sorters. The prominence of this occupation reflects the seasonal nature of vacancy information.

Occupation	Estimated Vacancies	Median Wage Offered
Graders and sorters, agricultural products	4,197	\$7.95
Registered nurses	2,511	\$20.00
Cashiers, except gaming	2,058	\$7.50
Misc. farming, fishing, and forestry workers	1,808	\$7.10
Customer service representatives	1,320	\$9.37
Retail salespersons	1,251	\$8.00
Waiters and waitresses	1,095	\$7.01
Laborers & material movers	986	\$8.00
Nursing aides, orderlies, & attendants	980	\$9.35
Computer systems software engineers	834	\$28.85
All vacancies in Washington	54,939	\$9.16

- There were an estimated 54,939 job vacancies statewide, 74 percent of which were full time and 70 percent permanent.

How much do they pay?

- Statewide, vacant positions pay a median starting wage of \$9.16 per hour.
- Over 60 percent of vacant jobs paid less than \$15.00 per hour.



What educational preparation do employers require?

- The majority of vacancies (58 percent) require a high school education or less.
- Meanwhile, the median starting wages for vacant jobs increase as educational requirements increase.

